

erence before you have found it and read it over several times carefully. Much depends upon the reading of the scripture. God certainly blesses it. Then read it in the best way you can and with a becoming degree of reverence for the word of God.

16 Do not be frivolous in the meeting. If you are not interested how can you expect to interest others?

17 Do not rest satisfied with past or present attainments. Reaching out after the unattained is the sole condition of progress. You can not become satisfied and continue to live. Self-satisfaction means death.

18 Do not forget to pray for your sick and indifferent members.

19 Do not permit any opportunity for doing good to pass by you. Seize them all and use them to the utmost. Opportunities neglected are opportunities lost.

20 Do not tolerate the spirit of caste or classes exist in the society. The society divided against itself shall inevitably fall. Possess the Christ like spirit which is the spirit of unity.

These *Do Nots* were written down while attending a society not long ago. They may prove helpful to other societies. Read them and profit by them. Let us strive to make our society work more perfect and more efficient. We can do so by correcting our mistakes and not making them a second time. Let us accept the motto "Only our best is good enough for Jesus."

W. D. FURRY.

The Christian Life

A Song of Trust

(Hab. 3, 17, 18)

KATHARINE E. PURVIS

"Though the fig tree shall not blossom,
Neither fruit be in the vine,"

Yet Jehovah is my refuge,
All his promises are mine.
Tho the olive fail to ripen,
And the fields shall yield no store,
I will praise Him who redeems me,
And rejoice for evermore.

Though the fold no flock shall shelter,
And no herd be in the stall,
I will trust the loving-kindness
Of the One who orders all:

He who notes the falling sparrow
From His great and lofty throne
Bids me cast my care upon Him,
And in safety keeps His own.

Though the tempest rage around me,
Want and grief my soul assail,
Though I miss the well beloved
Who have passed within the veil,
Though the mist of death surrounds me
Till it dims my mortal sight,
"Thru the valley of the shadow"
He will lead my soul to light,

The Power of a Holy Life

In His Steps.

There is nothing comparable to the beauty of holiness. It shines with a steady, unflinching light and attracts and uplifts by its own inherent and intrinsic power. As an evidence or proof of the divinity of Christianity, it is more forceful than logic and more con-

vincing than the most formidable array of facts that history can furnish. The apostolic injunction to Timothy as to conduct and character is the quintessence of wisdom, and reveals the motive power in the Christian life: "Be thou an ensample, . . . in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity." Holy living is the powerful agent for winning men to Christ. Some one spoke to Dr. Chalmers about the magnetism of a certain preacher. "Yes," he replied, "but gravitation is better than magnetism." He spoke truly. As Dr. A. J. Gordon said, "The force of gravitation depends on the weight of the body attracting it, and is a steady, enduring influence. Magnetism will fail when the preacher is old and rusty, but gravitation never fails, for it is founded on character. Christians who are unselfish, devoted, tender, humble, prayerful and sincere, are the strongest possible attractions. Gravitation is better than magnetism. The moon lifts the tide by gravitation, the church must lift the masses by the solid attraction of goodness, purity, and unworldliness. These cannot be counterfeited."

The Feelings in Religion

The Christian Intelligencer.

In religion, the feelings are not safe guides. They are too much up to-day and down to-morrow. And yet it is just in religion that there is the greatest temptation to follow them. Faith should not be influenced in the least by them. But it is. It is often controlled by these weathercocks.

How often are found those who think they must wait for some strong emotion, until they feel like it, before they can confess Christ or do some Christian service! And, agreeably to this popular error, very frequently in revivals the appeal is made to the feelings.

There is no safe ground for faith except conviction of the truth. One ought to be so convinced of God's love as to believe it even when he cannot feel it. He wrongs himself who does not take the trouble to form religious convictions, for he exposes his faith and with it his happiness to worse troubles.

The Blessing in Meditation

Canon Liddon.

Many Christians who say their prayers regularly never meditate. The very word seems to them rather to belong to religious phraseology than to describe anything actual and practical in a Christian's life. Yet they little know how much they lose, especially with reference to the life of our Lord and Savior, by neglecting this most healthful and fruitful exercise.

You say you do not know how to set about it. Very well, try something of this kind. After saying your morning prayers open a New Testament, and ask God to enable you to realize his presence, and to send his Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide you. Then read two or three verses, or a short paragraph, a miracle, a parable, a part of a discourse, as the case may be. Do not think

of its grammatical or historical or literary aspects, but say, "What do these words say to me? What truth do they teach? What fault do they correct? What effort do they prescribe or encourage? What resolutions do they make necessary?" If earnest, you will soon see your way. Scripture is so full of meaning that the real difficulty is which to select out of its abundance. Then, having decided on the main lessons of the passage, pray earnestly that you may practically remember them, and turn them in whatever way to the best account.

The whole exercise need not take up more than ten minutes; but at the end of a year it will, if regularly practiced, have made a great difference in matters which most intimately concern the soul. It is one way of so handling the Gospel history as to become convinced of its truth from perceiving its intimate sympathy with, and adaptation to, our own case. Instead of a vague, half-remembered, less than half-comprehended story, the life of Jesus steadily meditated on, passes into the life of the Christian by an insensible but real transfusion. It is turned, "in seccum et sanguinem," into the very substance of all that is truest and deepest in thought and heart. It illuminates, it warms, it invigorates, and by doing this it gives that inward proof of its reality which has been most highly prized by the most devoted servants of God. As of old, so now it is true that the man is blessed whose delight is in the revealed law of the Lord, and who meditates in it day and night; since he shall be like a tree planted by the water side who will bring forth his fruit in due season; his leaf also shall not wither, and look, whatsoever he doeth, it shall prosper.

God's Way Better

Rev. F. B. Meyer.

God will not always be causing grief. He traverses the dull brown acres with his plow, seaming the yielding earth that he may be able to cast in the precious grain. Believe that in days of sorrow he is sowing "light for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart." Look forward to the reaping. Anticipate the joy which is set before you, and shall flood your heart with minstrel notes when patience has had her perfect work. You will live to recognize the wisdom of God's choice for you. You will one day see that the thing you wished was only second best. You will be surprised to remember that you once nearly broke your heart and spilt the wine of your life for what would never have satisfied you if you had caught it, as the child the butterfly or soap bubble. You will meet again your beloved. You will have again your love. You will become possessed of a depth of character, a breadth of sympathy, a fund of patience, an ability to understand and help others, which, as you lay them at Christ's feet for him to use, will make you glad that you were afflicted. You will see God's plan and purpose; you will reap his harvest; you will behold his face, and be satisfied.